2. [*Transferred to 4th August, 1993*

Release of more edible oil in the open market

3. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release large quantities of edible oil in the open market to check the alarming level of price rise; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity released during the month of June, 1993 and to what extent prices have been reduced by the implementation of this decision

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The present prices of major edible oils like groundnut oil and mustard oil are lower than those prevailed during corresponding period in 1992 and much lower than the prices prevailed during the same period in 1991. They are not considered at alarming level. In view of this, the Government has no proposal as of now, to deliberately depress the prices of edible oils by releasing large quantities of edible oils in the open market.

Talks with trade and industry on passing excise benefits to consumers

4. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently held talks with trade and industry regarding passing of excise benefits to consumers;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of the talks;

(c) what is the extent to which the prices of consumer items which were provided excise duty concessions in 1993-94 budget have come down; and

(d) what is the reaction of such reductions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Two meetings with the major trade and industry associations and representatives of consumer protection were taken by the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Organisations Affairs and Public Distrivution on 20th April and 7th June 1993. In these meetings, the Minister stressed the need for a positive response from the industry to pass on the excise benefits given by the government to the consumers.

The concerned administrative Ministries were also directed to pursuade various sectors of industry under their charge to pass on the rebate to the consumers and to take appropriate action. The enforcement authorities of States and Union Territories were advised to take stern action against erring industries and traders under Weights and Measures Act. Wide publicity was also given through national and regional newspapers drawing attention of the manufacturers and retailers to notify the revised reduced price for sale of prepacked commodities and to apprise them of the legal position.

(c) and (d) According to the post-budget trend in the WPI of selected commodities, a large downward revision to the extent of 5 to 10 per cent in respect of the following commodities has been noticed: (1) Tea, (2) Vanaspati, (3) Refrigerator, (4) Air-conditioner, (5) Batteries. There is a nominal decrease in the prices of the following commodities between 0 to 5 per cent: Coffee, packed tea, instant coffee, paint, varnish and lacquer, safety matches, dry-cell, laundry soap, plywood commercial planks.